

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Italy

SUBJECT: Request for proposals for new work for the Codex *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (to be considered at the 1st Session of the Codex *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance)

DEADLINE: 31 March 2007

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With a copy to: Secretary
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BACKGROUND

1. The 29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2006) agreed to establish a Codex *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance and agreed on its objectives, terms of reference and timeline (see Annex 1).
2. The Commission agreed that a Circular Letter be sent to request concrete proposals for new work, preferably in the form of project documents (see Procedural Manual, Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, Part 2 Critical Review "Proposals to Undertake New Work or to Revise a Standard"), which would be compiled in a working document to be circulated for comments and consideration by the first meeting of the Task Force. The Commission also agreed to use the text listing elements and activities presented in a report prepared by the in-session working group (see Annex 2) as background information for the Circular Letter. (ALINORM 06/29/41, paras 168-169).

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR NEW WORK

3. Governments and international organizations wishing to submit proposals for new work (preferably in the form of project documents) for the Codex *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance should do so in writing as indicated above, *preferably by e-mail*, by **31 March 2007**.

Annex 1**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD-HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE
ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE****Objectives**

To develop science based guidance, taking full account of its risk analysis principles and the work and standards of other relevant international Organizations, such as FAO, WHO and OIE. The intent of this guidance is to assess the risks to human health associated with the presence in food and feed including aquaculture and the transmission through food and feed of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms and antimicrobial resistance genes and to develop appropriate risk management advice based on that assessment to reduce such risk.

Terms of reference

To develop guidance on methodology and processes for risk assessment, its application to the antimicrobials used in human and veterinary medicine as provided by FAO/WHO through JEMRA, and in close cooperation with OIE, with subsequent consideration of risk management options. In this process work undertaken in this field at national, regional and international levels should be taken into account.

Timeframe

Four meetings starting 2007.

Annex 2

EXTRACT OF CAC29/LIM 18 “REPORT OF THE IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP TO ANALYZE COMMENTS RECEIVED AND TO PREPARE PROPOSALS FOR THE TITLE, OBJECTIVES, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND TIME FRAME FOR THE PROPOSED TASK FORCE.”

Scope

The outcome of Codex work in this area would be:

Guidance on methodology and processes for risk assessment, its application to the antimicrobials used in human and veterinary medicine as provided by FAO/WHO through JEMRA , and in close cooperation with OIE, with subsequent consideration of risk management options. In this process work undertaken in this field at national, regional and international levels should be taken into account.

To achieve this outcome, elements would include:

- A review of existing standards and good practices manuals
- Development of a risk analysis methodology and process
- Establishment of risk profiles with respect to antimicrobial resistance appropriately balanced with consideration of the possible positive aspects to food safety of different antimicrobials used in food and feed production and processing and with respect to the development of antimicrobial resistance in foodborne bacteria as a consequence of antimicrobial use in food and feed production and processing (including aquaculture)
- Prioritization of this work with a particular emphasis on the public health and animal health significance of the antimicrobials under consideration, taking into account existing documents/guidelines from FAO, WHO, OIE, Codex related to the containment of antimicrobial resistance, the ongoing work on Critically important antimicrobials, as well as activities undertaken in this area at international, regional and national level
- Ensuring that the methodology developed is appropriate for the range of individual animal/drug /bacterial species combinations identified by the prioritization process.
- Provision of specific risk management advice in relation to reducing risk to human health associated with the use of antimicrobials in food and feed production and processing (including aquaculture) based on the outcome of the risk assessments provided to the Task Force according to the defined methodology and other relevant data.

Activities

The following process will be followed in undertaking the work of the Task Force, subject to review at the first session to assure its appropriateness and completeness.

1. Prioritize antimicrobials for risk assessment especially those identified by WHO, OIE and FAO as critically important for human and animal health and other related work.
2. Identify the data that is available concerning antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms in food production as well as data that need to be collected and analyzed to carry out risk assessment
3. Define risk assessment methodology and policy for use by FAO and WHO (JEMRA) in this area taking account of relevant work undertaken in this area.
4. Seek scientific advice from FAO/WHO/OIE as required combined with additional expertise as appropriate. This could include requests for risk assessments to be performed by FAO/WHO (JEMRA) in coordination with OIE, after a clear definition of scope and purpose of the work to be done is developed.

5. Develop specific risk management advice, based on the identified priorities, the results of the risk assessments, as well as existing documents/guidelines from FAO/WHO and OIE related to the containment of antimicrobial resistance in animals for food, Codex codes of practice and codes of hygienic practice (especially those from CCRVDF and CCFH) and ongoing work from FAO, WHO and OIE on critically important antimicrobials.
6. Implement a dialogue between other Codex committees or task forces that have responsibility for developing guidance that impacts on antimicrobial resistance, particularly the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods and the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.
7. Suggest systems to monitor the effectiveness of risk management programs